

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zachariah Gherkins (Gerkins, Jerkins) S45843 f30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/27/07 rev'd 8/12/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 13]

Territory of Florida (To Wit)

At a Court held for the County of Leon Middle District of Florida on Saturday the 22nd day of March A. D. 1828

Personally appeared in open court Zachariah Gherkins who being sworn deposeseth and saith that he was a private in the Company Commanded by Capt. Swan Trouten [Swan Trouton] of the Regiment commanded by Col. Nicholas Long in the State troops of North Carolina in the year 1781 that he entered for the period of twelve months and faithfully served out his time as a private aforesaid and obtained a regular discharge which discharge he has long since lost. That he was Seventy one years old the 18th day of the present month (March) and that he is unable to maintain and support himself, and has no property in the world except the cloths on his back. And further that he was a private in the troop of horse commanded by Col. Read [James Read] and Col. Webb of North Carolina and that he served five months in the same at which period the battle of Guilford Court house took place [March 15, 1781]. The said troop did not participate in the action of that day. And further says that he served a tour of five months as a private in the company commanded by Capt. Turner [Nathan Turner], Col. Sonson's [Samson's ?] Regiment of foot at the period of the fall of Charleston South Carolina [Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780]. And that he also served as a private a tour of three months in the company commanded by Capt. Williams in the Regiment commanded by Col. Sowell [Benjamin Seawell] of the State of North Carolina at the period of General Gates [Horatio Gates] defeat by Cornwallis at the Eutaw Springs [sic, Gum Swamp] near Campden [sic, Camden] South Carolina [August 15-16, 1780].

And the said Gherkins in corroboration of the above facts tenders to this Honorable Court and prays that the same may be made a part of the record the following affidavit of one Edward Blackshear a private in Capt. Jones Company of the same Regiment taken before Suday C. Ferrill Esq a Justice of the peace for the County of Thomas in the State of Georgia which said affidavit is in the records and figures following, to wit,

“State of Georgia, Thomas County. Personally appeared before me Suday C. Ferrill a justice of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid Edward Blackshear and after being duly sworn deposeseth and saith that he saw Zachariah Gherkins as a private soldier in the company commanded by Nicholas Long in the State of North Carolina some time during the

year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one for the period of one year. That the said Gherkins faithfully performed all duties imposed upon him to the best of his knowledge. December 6, 1827

S/ Edward Blackshear

S/ S. C. Ferrill, JP

In testimony that the above written Suday C. Ferrill of Thomas County was a justice of the peace authorised to administer oaths in the State of Georgia [rest of line obliterated] Subscribed appears to me to be his usual signature I have hereunto subscribed my name and quality and affixed my seal at my office this 16th day of December A.D. 1827

Malion Ferguson, CSC {Seal}”

And for further proof in this behalf the said county courts of Leon in the Middle District of Florida does hereby certify that the party to the above affidavit Edward Blackshear is well known to this court as a man of truth and veracity and responsible for any truth advanced or sworn to by him and that the said Suday C. Ferrill before whom said affidavit was taken was at the time of taking said affidavit a Justice of the Peace for the County of Thomas and State of Georgia. And furthermore the Court doth hereby certify its satisfaction of the above proof and also in relation to the poverty and inability on the part of said Gherkins to support and maintain himself. Whereupon it is ordered by the said court that the same be made a record of the court.

I Cary Nicholas, Clerk of the County Court of Leon County, Territory of Florida do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Record made in the case of Zachariah Gherkins a Revolutionary soldier. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my private seal (there being no seal of office) this 19th day of August A D 1828.

S/ C. Nicholas, Clerk

I David B Macomb, Judge of the County Court of Leon Territory of Florida do hereby certify that Cary Nicholas whose name appears to the above certificate is and was at the time of signing the same Clerk of the County Court aforesaid, and that due faith and credit is and ought to be given to all his official acts as such Given under my hand and Seal this 19th day of August A. D. 1828

S/ David Macomb

Judge of Leon County
Middle Florida

[p 10]

Territory of Florida, Leon County

I Zachariah Gerkins do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War"

passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed.

S/ Zachariah Gerkins, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed by marking in open court this 16th Nov. 1831

S/ David B. Macomb, Presiding Justice of Leon County, Mid Florida

Schedule of all the property of Zachariah Gerkins made this 16th day of November 1831 viz:

1 old cloth coat & 2 roundabouts
2 old waistcoats
5 pair pantaloons (summer oznaburgs)
1 shirt
1 old Hat
1 pr socks
1 pr shoes
1 navat [?]

S/ Zachariah Gerkins, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 16th Nov 1831 in open court

S/ David B. Bacomb Presiding Justice of Leon County

[p 17]

Territory of Florida Leon County

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the act of Congress of March 18th 1818, Entitled "an act to provide for certain persons, engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war" and other acts supplemental thereto, Zacheriah Gerkins, formerly of the State of North Carolina, and at present a citizen of the Territory and County aforesaid, first being duly sworn, saith that he was a soldier of the Revolution, and that he served the following tours of duty against the British the then common Enemy of the United States - viz - That he entered Captain Crowel's Company under General Allen Jones, in the North Carolina line, as a volunteer, and as well as deponent can now recollect (being old and infirm and his memory bad) some time during the third year of the war, and served for the space of three months. That this deponent cannot recollect the time of entering or leaving this term of service more nearly than as above stated. That the manner of Entering was as aforesaid, and of leaving it, was by the ordinary discharge.

That he entered Captain Turner's Company in Col. Lowery's [Lieutenant Colonel John Lowry] Regiment (as deponent thinks) in the North Carolina line, as a volunteer, and served for the period of six months. That this Regiment was raised in North Carolina and marched immediately to Charleston in South Carolina and placed under the command of Genl Hogan [sic, James Hogan]. That deponent entered on this term of service as aforesaid, and left by the ordinary discharge. That the particular service of the deponent, during most of the above named period, was that of driving a waggon and acting as waggoner for the army under Daniel Edwards, waggonmaster, who was under the command or direction of Col Long, Superintendant of the waggons, belonging to the North Carolina Line. That the period deponent volunteered for the above named tour of service, was some time late in the fall of 1779 and the time of his discharge, late in the spring or the beginning of the summer of 1780.

That in the summer of 1780 this deponent entered Captain Williams' [possibly Captain Benjamin Williams'] company in Col. Sowel's [Seawell's] Regiment in the North Carolina Line under General Gates as a volunteer and served for five months and left the army by the ordinary discharge sometime in the fall of that or the early part of the winter of the following year.

That within a very short period (this deponent cannot exactly recollect how long) after the expiration of the last mentioned term of service, this deponent entered Captain Robinson's company in Col. Read's Regiment in the North Carolina Line, under Genl Greene [Nathanael Greene] as a volunteer and served in the cavalry (finding his own horse and accoutrements) for better than five months, when he was discharged by the ordinary discharge. That the Regiment to which he belonged immediately after it was formed in North Carolina marched to Guilford Court House in that State and was put under the command of Genl Greene. That he was in the battle of Guilford Court House and in the skirmish at Camden South Carolina between the troops under Genl Greene, and those under the British Commander Lord Rawdon [Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, April 25, 1781].

That this deponent is without any Education (being unable either to read or to write) and consequently has no memoranda or written memorials of any sort of his services in the armies of the Revolution.

That this deponent is now nearly 77 years of age, that it is now almost fifty years since he left North Carolina, his native State, and consequently has not had the advantage of intercourse with his fellow soldiers who were mostly North Carolinians, to revive and impress the events of that war upon his memory. That he may therefore have erred in some unimportant particulars, but as to the terms of service, he is confident his statements are strictly correct. That the written discharges from the proper officers at the close of the above named terms of service which had been preserved by this deponent were destroyed by the burning of the house of his son, with whom he resides, about two years ago. That in addition to the above named terms of service, this deponent served for twelve as set forth in the petition of this deponent which was during the last winter, forwarded to the War Department, where he is informed and believes it is now on file.

S/ Zachariah Gerkins, X his mark

Sworn to subscribed by marking 16th November 1831

S/ David Macomb, Presiding Justice of Leon C.

[p 3]

Territory of Florida, County of Leon.

On this 17th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before John A. Cameron, Robert R. Read, and Thomas Randall, Judges of the Court of Appeals for said Territory now sitting, Zachariah Jerkins a resident of the county and Territory aforesaid, aged Seventy Seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated.

That he first entered the service of the United States in the year 1776 or 1777, at that time he resided in the County of Halifax, North Carolina he cannot be more definite as to the time he entered the service that he entered as a volunteer in Captain Crowl's company which was under the command of Genl. Jones and served in that tour of duty for about four months ^{or less time} does not recollect the name of the Col. of the regiment, that while in this tour of service he marched from Halifax County, N. C. up to Charlottesville and Hillsborough [sic, Hillsborough] in said

State at which last named place he was discharged. Shortly after his discharge at Hillsborough the date he does not recollect, he entered as a volunteer in Captain Turner's Company Colonel Lowry was the Colonel of the Regiment, under these officers he marched to Charles Town [sic, Charleston] South Carolina in which place he remained for three or four months ^{is not certain as to length} _{of time} and left there a short time previous to the British making an attack on that place, that while on that tour of duty he was in no engagement except light skirmishes with small parties of British and Tories and received his discharge shortly after leaving Charleston. Immediately after his discharge he returned to Halifax, N. C. and a short time afterwards (the date he does not recollect) entered the service as a volunteer in the company of Captain Williams, Col. Seawell was Colonel of the Regiment and John Brickell Lieutenant Colonel, under these officers he marched towards Camden, South Carolina to join General Gates [Horatio Gates] who he met retreating after his defeat. Joined his army and accompanied it to Pedee River and from thence to Deep River and thence to Salisbury, NC where he received his discharge, was on this tour of duty about five months. He then returned to Halifax County, N. C. where a short time afterwards he again entered the service of a troop of cavalry under the command of Captain Robinson and Col. Read and joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] near Guilford Court house, N. C. and served under those officers at the Battle at that place. He then marched with the cavalry of General Greene to Camden, S. C. was discharged on the Pedee River, in this tour of duty was one about five months. That the next tour of duty he performed was in the North Carolina State Troops in which he volunteered in the month of October 1781 for a twelve month tour of duty in the County of Halifax, N. C. in the company of Captain Swan Tronton [?]. there was no higher officer in command during the tour of duty other than Major Long, had but little active service to perform and was principally engaged in quelling the Tories. While on this last tour of duty marched from Halifax to Salisbury, was in the neighborhood of Fayetteville and was on Pedee River and Deep River, was discharged in October or November 1782 and was never in the service afterwards. There are no witnesses now living in his power to procure by whom he can prove his services. He received written discharges after most if not all of his tours of service but they together with the record of his age have been destroyed by fire. He was acquainted with the following officers in the regular service. General Greene, General Gates, Col. Lee, and Col. Washington. He has no documentary evidence by which to establish his services than such as may be on file in the departments at Washington City. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

He further states that he is not acquainted with any Clergyman whose statement he can procure in compliance with the instructions from the War Department but begs leave to refer to the evidence of Edward Blackshear and George Ogden, witnesses who proved his services on application which he made for a pension about three years since whose testimony he is informed is on file in the War Department. He further states that both of said witnesses have since departed this life.

Sworn to in open court 17 January 1833

S/ Zachariah Jerkins, X his mark

S/ Jas. S. Linn. Clk

[C. C. Williams and Alfred A. Fisher gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia and the North Carolina State Troops.]